• The FANZINE for BATMAN FANS •

BATMANIA

No. 4

APRIL 1965

IN THIS ISSUE

EVOLUTION OF THE BATMOBILE

The DYNAMIC DUO ON PATROL

Our objective---to join together those who enjoy reading and collecting the stories of Batman

NO. 4

BATMANIA

Hi Batmanians!

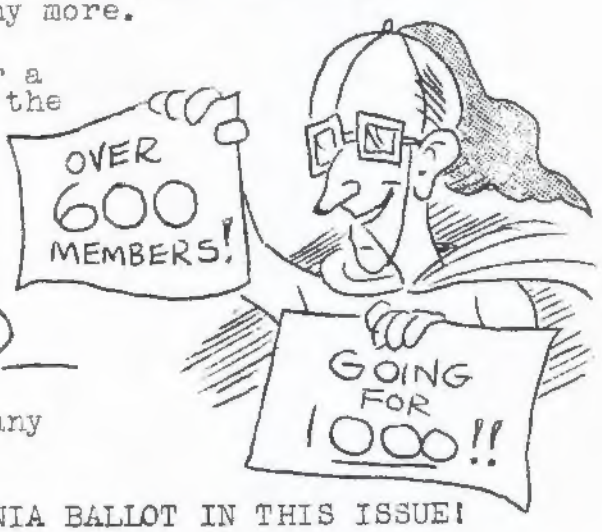
As we begin this fourth edition of BATMANIA you will notice a new type of reporting, beginning with what we call: BAT-FACTS Pictorial. Like the comics we write about which are illustrated, this new series is in all-picture form. If you approve of this method we will continue it; if not, we'll stick to straight reporting. Okay?

The intention of this publication is to cover as many different phases of Batman, and comics, and anything pertaining to Batman. This will allow us a variety of presentations, and not any set pattern, or schedule. If something comes in---such as Tom Fagan's "The Big Parade"(BM#3)---it will be used immediately.

In up-coming issues of BATMANIA we have many interesting articles lined up for your enjoyment. They include; BAT-FACTS Pictorial--Evolution of the Batplane, Special Alfred Memorial Issue, Early days of Robin, Bat-Gadgets--Batarang-to-Utility Belt, and many more.

Several fans have been asking for a report on Batman's adventures in the syndicated newspaper strips. We hope to present this soon.

All in all, the future of BM looks promising--so stay with us.



CAPT. BILJO

Please notify us immediately of any change of address. Thank you.

RESULTS OF 1964 1st ANNUAL BATMANIA BALLOT IN THIS ISSUE!

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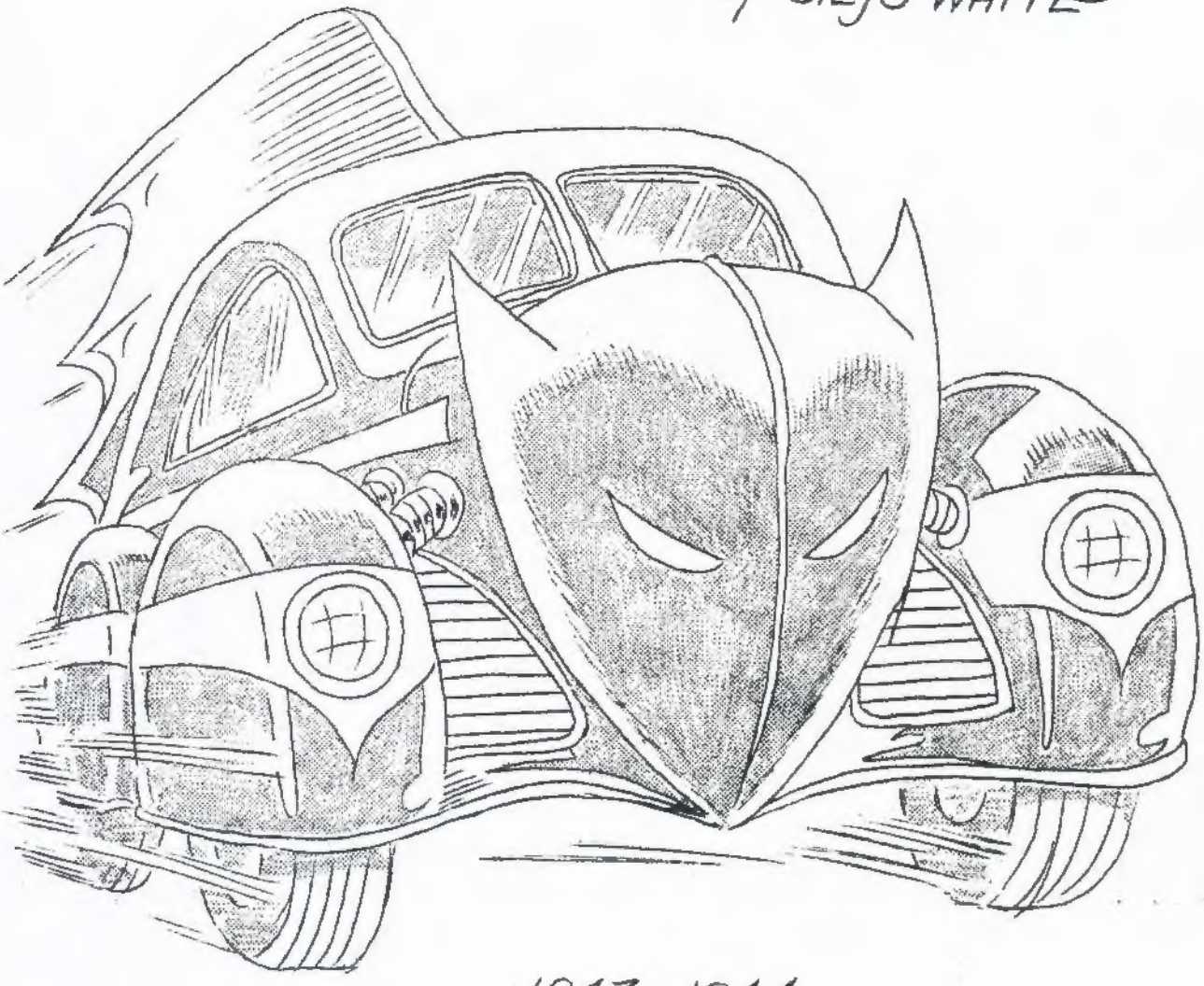
BAT-FACTS PICTORIAL
#1

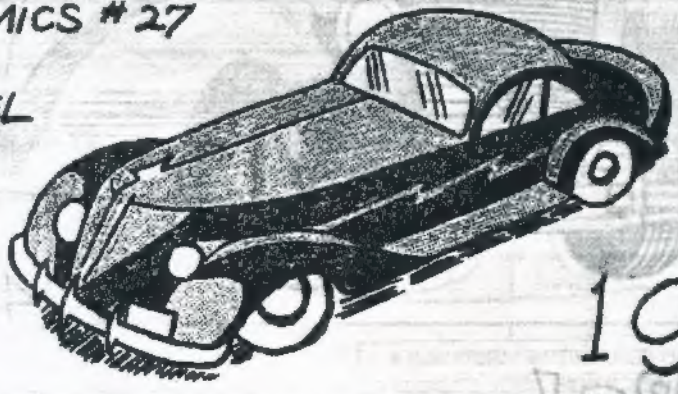
EVOLUTION of the BATMOBILE

by BILJO WHITE



1943-1944
FROM the COVER of
BATMAN COMICS #20

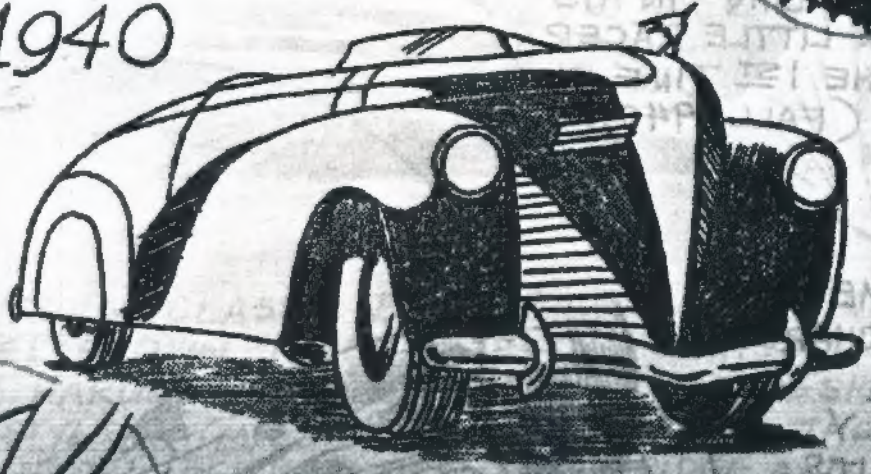
BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THE BATMOBILE, BATMAN USED THIS SPECIAL 1939-MODEL HIGH-POWERED AUTO! THIS PARTICULAR AUTOMOBILE APPEARED IN DETECTIVE COMICS #30 (AUG. 1939)! IN THE FIRST BATMAN STORY, (DETECTIVE COMICS #27 MAY 1939) A SIMILAR MODEL WAS USED, BUT THE HOOD WAS NOT AS STREAMLINED!



1939

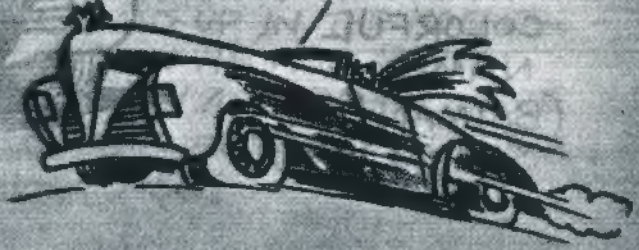
JANUARY-1940 (DETECTIVE COMICS #35) SAW THE BATMAN CHANGE OVER TO AN OPEN-TOP ROADSTER! ALTHOUGH THIS MODEL WAS BLUE, SOME LATER MODELS WERE RED (DETECTIVE #48)!

1940

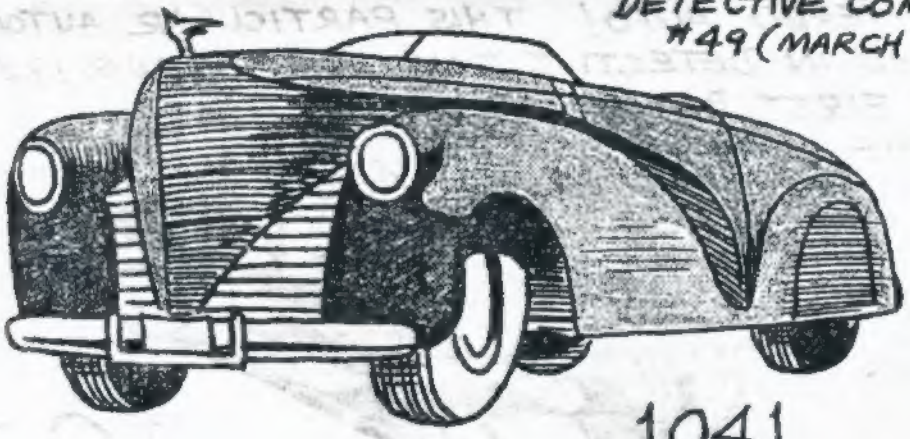


DETECTIVE COMICS #48 (FEB. 1941) OFFICIALLY CALLED the BATMOBILE!

1941



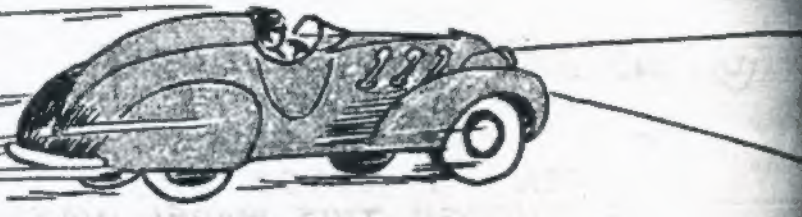
DURING THE EARLY YEARS THERE WERE MINOR CHANGES IN THE BATMOBILE, SUCH AS DIFFERENT TYPE BUMBERS, HEADLIGHTS, ETC. THIS MODEL APPEARED IN DETECTIVE COMICS #49 (MARCH 1941)



1941

WHOOPS!---

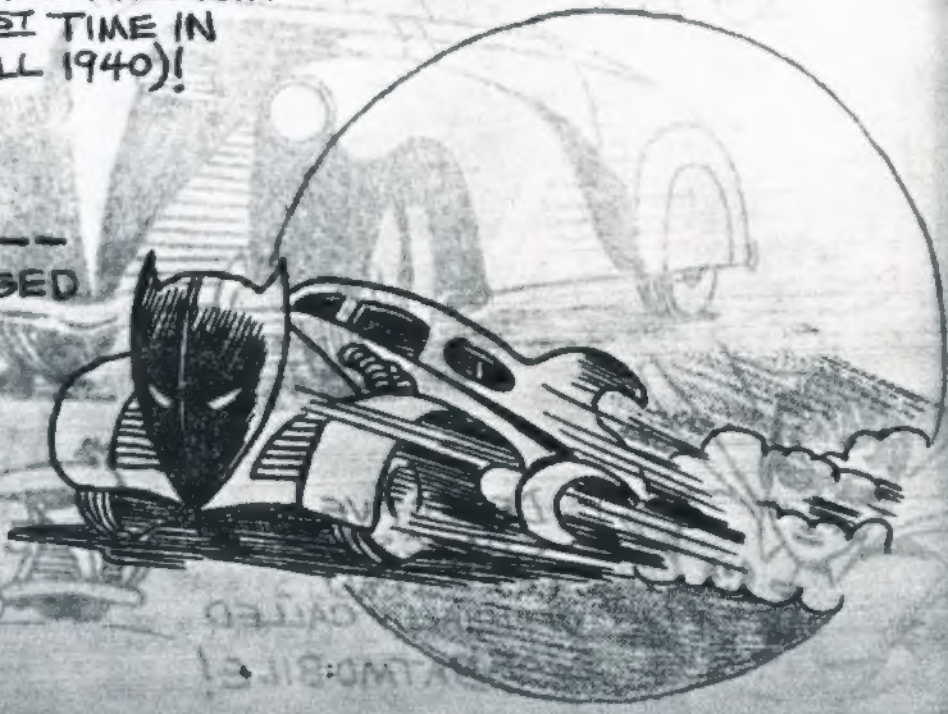
ZOOM...

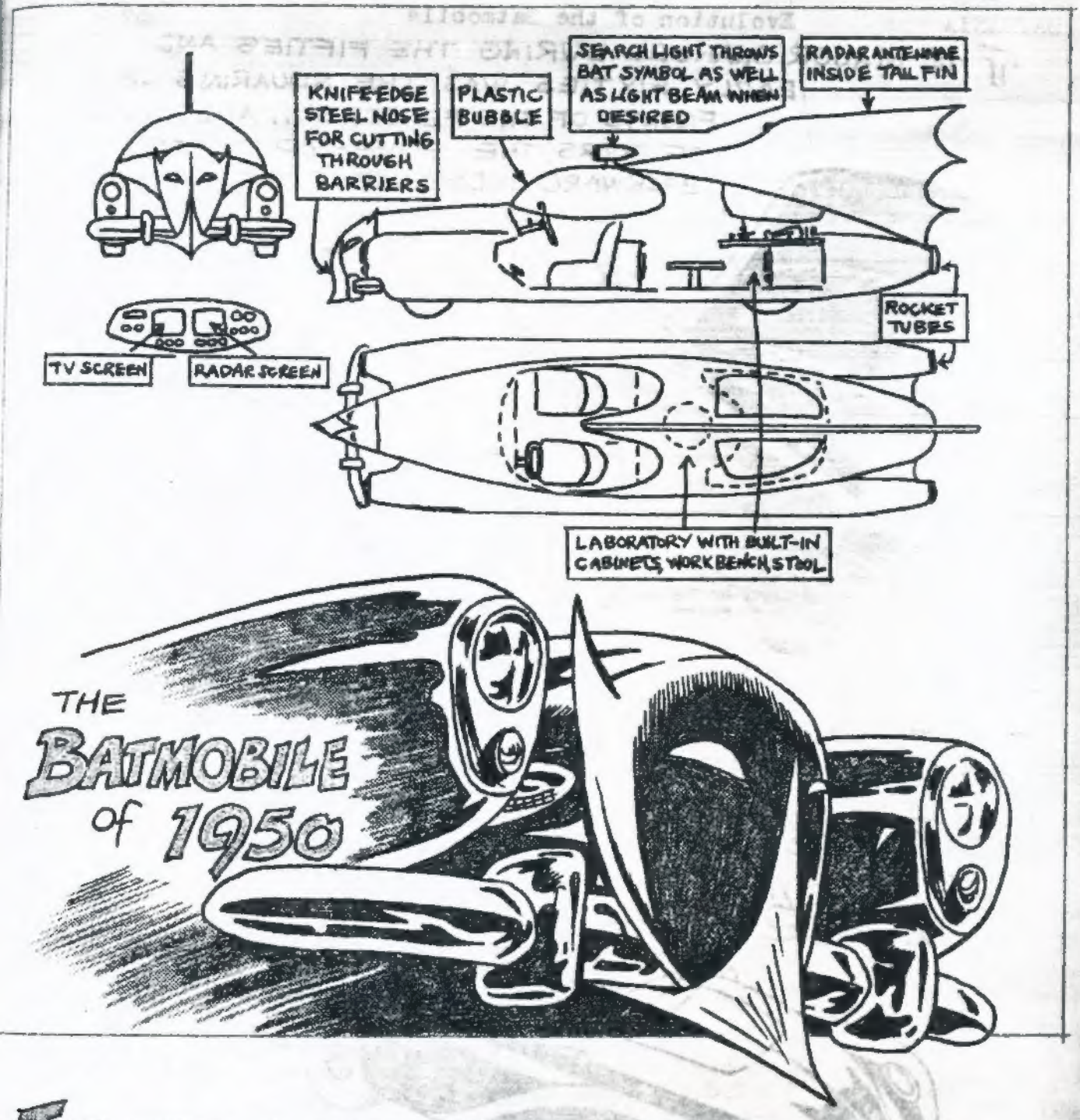


WHAT'S THIS?

YES! IT'S ROBIN - IN HIS POWERFUL LITTLE RACER... USED FOR THE 1ST TIME IN BATMAN #3 (FALL 1940)!

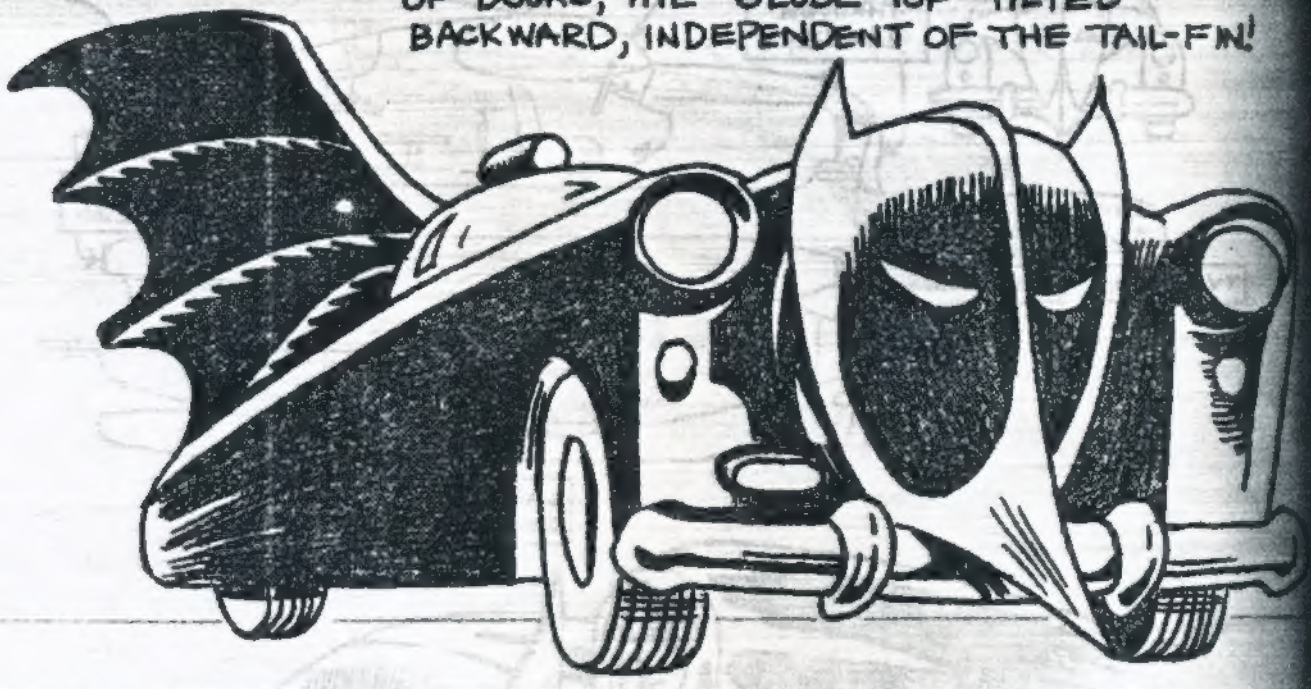
AND... HERE IT COMES!-- the SUPER-CHARGED BATMOBILE THAT FINALLY LIVES UP TO ITS COLORFUL NAME (BATMAN #5 SPRING 1941)!




KNIFE-EDGE STEEL NOSE FOR CUTTING THROUGH BARRIERS
PLASTIC BUBBLE
SEARCH LIGHT THROWS BAT SYMBOL AS WELL AS LIGHT BEAM WHEN DESIRED
RADAR ANTENNAE INSIDE TAIL FIN
ROCKET TUBES
TV SCREEN
RADAR SCREEN
LABORATORY WITH BUILT-IN CABINETS, WORK BENCH, STOOL

THE TRULY CLASSIC BATMOBILE WAS THE ONE DEVELOPED IN 1950 (DETECTIVE COMICS #156 - FEB. 1950). WITH HARDLY A CHANGE IN THE BASIC DESIGN OF THE OLD STYLE BATMOBILE FOR MANY YEARS, THE ORIGINAL 1941-MODEL FLIPPED OFF OF A BRIDGE AND CRASHED DURING A HIGH-SPEED CHASE! WHILE LAID UP IN THE HOSPITAL BATMAN DESIGNED THE ABOVE MODEL WHICH HE AND ROBIN BUILT! IN THIS DYNAMIC STORY, BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO TEST ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT LISTED ABOVE — PLUS A CHEMICAL BLACKOUT FOG!

THE MAJOR CHANGES DURING THE FIFTIES AND EARLY SIXTIES WAS THE SQUARING OF FRONTS OF THE FENDERS... AND INSTEAD OF DOORS, THE GLOBE-TOP TILTED BACKWARD, INDEPENDENT OF THE TAIL-FIN!



The BATMOBILE of 1965

WITH TODAYS GREAT NEED FOR MOBILITY IN OUR NATIONS COMPLEX TRAFFIC, THE MODERN NEW BATMOBILE IS MADE TO ORDER! YET— AS IN THE PAST — THE FUTURE SURELY HOLDS MORE CHANGES FOR THIS UNIQUE VEHICLE.., ONLY TIME WILL TELL!

THE END

THE BATRADER

This is a restricted ad section for fans desiring to buy-sell-trade Batman comics and related items. Comics to be listed for sale must not exceed the rate of 20¢ per year. Example: a 10 year old comic(1955) times 20¢ = $2.00. If you feel your comic is worth more, then omit a price and enter the word; bid. If a fan is interested, he can deal with you privately. The BATRADER's purpose is to provide the fan a place to help locate that hard-to-find item, not for the benefit of the comic profiteer. Only comics featuring Batman can be advertised. Rate: 25 words for 10¢, including a minimum of 6 words for your name and address. 150 words, 50¢.

BATMAN COMIC STRIPS FOR SALE: I have over 200 copies of the first six Batman and Robin comic strips---reprinted exactly as they appeared in the 1943 daily newspapers. These are NOT photo-stats, but original sized strips. Copies of these same first six Batman comic strips sell for up to as much as six dollars. But now for a limited time, all six strips printed on high quality bond are yours for $1.00!!! In these first six strips, you get the origin of Batman, Robin, Alfred, The Batcave, Batsignal, Batplane and Batmobile. Plus as a FREE extra, you'll get inside info on the Batman appearances in comics and newspapers. ALL ORDERS mailed flat in a manilla envelope. Send all orders to:
BILL DUBAY, 461 CHENERY ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FOR BID OR TRADE: Detective #252,296,298(origin of Clay-Face),300, 301(no cover),305,306. Batman Annual #3,4,5,6. WANTED: Pre 1955 comics Batman Annuals 1 & 2. All original artwork. Send postcards if possible to: DONALD EVANS, 38 BELLAIRE DR., STAMFORD, CONN. 06905
ps. I have 75 other Batman, Detective, JLA & World's Finest. Send wants.

WANTED: Screen Thrills Illustrated #2, Batmania #1---both must be absolutely perfect, no tears, folds or marks. Old Batman newspaper comics, absolutely perfect condition.
TOM HRONIK, ROUTE 2 - 52404, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

WANTED: Detective #27,28,29,30,31,32,33,35,36,38,45,51,59,61,76,140, 147,154,175,200,217,300,323,324,325,326,327 and Batman Annual #1. All Sunday and some daily strips of Batman. Batman decals and tatoos of 1940's. Will accept foto-stats or similar reproductions of these.
Contact: MIKE CAVENDER, 563 COLORADO AVE., AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506

FOR SALE: World's Finest 126,128,130. Batman: 159,161,166. Justice League of America: 15,30 --all 25¢ each. All issues have covers. For all orders enclose 20¢ for postage. Send orders to:
ROBERT LEWIS, 301 DORSET DRIVE, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

REMEMBER----For best results in ordering, be sure to enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for quick refund in case comics are sold.

WANTED: Batman #1,2,3,4,5,7,11,15,20,27,28,45,49,57,71,78,100,112, 152,161,162,163,164. I will pay reasonable prices for these issues. Write: MIKE CAVENDER, 563 COLORADO AVE., AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506

FOR SALE: Batman #150,-75¢, 157-50¢, 162,166,168-25¢ea. World's Finest 134,138-50¢ea. 139,141,142,143,144,145,146-25¢ea. JLA 24,29,30,31,32, -25¢ea. BILL GOODRICH, 2631 BRESTEL RD., CINCINNATI, OHIO

FOR SALE: Secret Origins #1-50¢(VG), JLA 10,11 both coverless-20¢ea. World's Finest 131coverless-20¢. Batman 147,153coverless-20¢ea. Detective 311cov.-20¢. BILL RAY,3300 GARBETT, McKEESPORT, PA. 15132

RARE BATMAN COMICS FOR BID: Batman #1(fair,but complete); Batman #2 (very good); Batman #3(near mint); Batman #4(very good); Batman #5- (very good); Detective #48(near mint); Detective #49(very good); Detective #86(fair, but complete). FREE to the collector who needs them to complete his copy: Pages from BATMAN #1. List pages you need and send large stamped self-addressed envelope unless you want pages folded. Send an s.a.e. for a list of other Batman Comics available soon.
JERRY G. BAILS, 22529 KARAM COURT, WARREN, MICH. 48091

WANTED: Batman #50 thru 70. Will pay 75¢ each. #71 thru 90 will pay 50¢ each. Contact: DAVID REDZINSKI, 260 ORCHARD, PEWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

FOR THE BEST OF TRADES, I HAVE THOUSANDS OF COMICS DATING BACK TO THE 1930's, SOME OF ALMOST ANY TITLE YOU MIGHT WANT. If you have original BATMAN artwork or any type of BATMAN material(decals, newspaper strips, etc.) for trade, then it will pay you to check with me first.
BILJO WHITE, P.O.BOX 115, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65202

WANTED: Batman Annuals #1, 2, 3, 4. All must be in good condition and have full covers. No pages must be missing. I will pay reasonable prices. BUTCH TAYLOR, 32 N. BELVEDERE,Apt.13, MEMPHIS, TENN. 38104

FOR SALE: Batman #142,151,156,163,164-15¢@ Comics in fair to very good condition. WANTED: Batman #132,137,165 Detective #286,315,316,328 World's Finest #89,113 Batman Annual #2. Comics must be fair to better Will pay good prices: HARRY RUCKER, 3604 HARVARD, DALLAS, TEXAS 75205

WANTED: Batman #138,140,141. World's Finest #145. 1958 or 1959 Adventure comic--Superboy meets Robin. Justice League of America #3,24.
LARRY MITCHELL, BOX 383, BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA, CANADA

NOTICE ---BATMANIA now has over 600 fans listed on the official roll call. Our immediate goal is 1000 members. Have you asked your friends to join up yet? Several sections of the country have already organized into good-size groups, such as in; Detroit, Chicago and Dallas. Be a part of a national comicdom group which meets annually at the COMICON. Perhaps the Batmanians can become a an important part of this organization. All readers of BATMANIA automatically become Batmanians. Our readers are international. BM goes to; Australia, England, So.Africa.

THE BATMANIAN ROLL CALL

Beginning in this issue we will start listing each and every active BATMANIAN and their address, plus their official life-time BM number. This service is presented to you readers to better acquaint yourselves with one another. This section will be limited to two pages per issue and names will be selected at random. Keep watching for your name to appear.

Edwin M. Aprill, Jr. #187
5272 Liberty Road
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Marty Arbunich #108
60 Gladys St.
San Francisco, Calif.

Steve Austin #202
64 South Moison Road
Blauvelt, N.Y.

Jerry G. Bails #229
22529 Karam Court
Warren, Mich.

Robert M. Barritt #172
R.D. 3, Box 105
Bellaire, Ohio

Jeremy A. Barry #110
613 E. Cottage Grove Ave.
Bloomington, Ind.

Barry Bauman #111
2217-38th Ave.
Oakland, Calif.

Art Becher #112
5715 Mason
Omaha, Nebr.

Robert Behr #113
1320 Biscayne Drive
Montgomery, Alabama

Gary Behymer #458
1415 Hains
Richland, Wash.

Tommy Bender #354
432 Friedman Lane
Paducah, Ky.

Bill Berndt #391
32 third Ave. N.E.
Osseo, Minn.

Jim Bettencourt #410
151 El Campo Drive
San Jose, Calif.

Dave Bibby #114
40 Hillside Ave.
Verona, New Jersey

Jerry Bixby #203
2020 Ostrum
Pontiac, Mich.

Leroy S. Blair #251
205 West Pine Ave.
Meridian, Idaho

Blaine Board #407
312 8th St.
Glen Dale, West Va.

Dennis Bova #313
548 Ambridge Ave.
Fair Oaks, Pa.

Howard Brenner #116
420 Pelham Road
Rochester, N.Y.

E. W. Brill #216
107 E. Walnut Park Drive
Philadelphia, Pa.

Bob Butts #510
719 Pierce St.
South Bend, Ind.

John Cardoza #535
201 Raymond
Yreka, Calif.

----more next page--

Mike Cavender #273
563 Colorado Ave.
Aurora, Ill.

Sidney Chambers #501
3300 Cherry Ave.
San Jose, Calif.

Robert Chapman #494
2010 S. Sycamore St.
Santa Ana, Calif.

David Colton #352
64 Elm Ave.
Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

Joseph Conn #356
Route 3
Monticello, Ky.

Vernell Coriell #188
6657 Locust
Kansas City, Mo.

Dan Dablow #119
1601 Jefferson Ave.
St. Paul, Minn.

Lucas Dang #120
708 Jackson St.
Oakland, Calif.

Alan Daniels #399
33 Convent Ave.#20
New York, N.Y.

George Detrow #166
651 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, Md.

Ken Dixon #121
674 Buttonwood Dr.
Springfield, Pa.

Edmund Dmowski #360
9719 Priscilla St.
Downey, Calif.

Bill Dubay #225
461 Chenery St.
San Francisco, Calif.

Greg Duerden #380
1270 E. Apple
Provo, Utah

Hy Herman #417
135 Rivington St.
New York, N.Y.

Rick Durell(Apt.G)#122
424 W. Imperial Ave.
El Segundo, Calif.

David Eddings #218
6307 Thrush
Houston, Texas

Bill Engelbret #457
145 Longue Vue Dr.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Donald Ensign #123
1280 E. Dakerview Rd.
Bellingham, Wash.

Craig Evans #330
2214 Norman St.
Pasadena, Texas

Donald Evans #409
38 Bellaire Dr.
Stamford, Conn.

Tom Fagan #107
22 Nichols St.
Rutland, Vermont

Joe Farrell #383
2 Garrigus Court
Wolcott, Conn.

Dave Fitzsimmons #237
52 S.W. 35 Ave.
Miami, Florida

Richard Fleming #232
141 Cypress St.
Providence, R.I.

Ian Forrest #344
1101 S. Virlee
Santa Ana, Calif.

Ronn Foss #183
1624 N.French
Santa Ana, Calif.

Andrew Fraknoi(Apt.324)
1950 Andrews #124
Bronx, N.Y.

Mike Friedrich #181
17474 Ehle St.
Castro Valley, Calif.

Larry Herndon #127
1830 Highland Dr.
Carrollton, Texas

Paul Gambaccinni #125
8 Elizabeth Dr.
Westport, Conn.

Craig Garbett #180
3940 Maudray Way
Carmichael, Calif.

Randy Garrou #332
4327 N. Harding Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Bob George #559
Box 429, Station B
Vanderbilt Univ.
Nashville, Tenn.

Arline Gomez #384
826 W. Theo Ave.
San Antonio, Texas

Bill Goodrich #335
2631 Brestel Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Steve Grant #201
7213 Dartmouth
University City, Mo.

Richard Green #171
1311 Hayden St.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Ronald Greilich #193
7332 Rockwell Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa.

William Gremmel #284
11803 Colman Terr.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Tom Griffin #306
181 White Birch
Pease AFB, N. H.

Mike Gustin #254
2021 Caddington Dr.
San Pedro, Calif.

Merlin Haas #396
R. R. #2
El Paso, Ill.

Jerry Hasson #177
2665 Byron Place
Los Angeles, Calif.

MORE NEXT ISSUE

With so many fine letters piling up here at Batmanian headquarters, it has been decided that now would be a good time to present them to all the other readers. Many different topics concerning our hero, Batman, and comics in general, will be aired here so feel free to write and express yourself. This feature is in answer to those fans who desired a chance to write something for BATMANIA.

You might be interested to know that a disc-jockey in Boston has been making passing references to Batman over the air. His name is Bruce Bradley and you might want to send him a trial issue of BATMANIA in exchange for the air play he'll no doubt give to your publication. He's done most of his Batman stuff in kidding (he's also created a non-accreditted high school, collected tea bags, used or otherwise, for Pillows for Under-Priviledged Sparrows, done a bit for the Annual return of the Buzzards to Hinkley, Ohio, and tried to give a decent name to the much maligned lint, like in pockets, etc.) but it's publicity. That's Bruce Bradley, WBZ-radio, Boston, Mass.

--- Tom Jones, BM#163

(Tom, I did forward a copy of BM to Mr. Bradley and I hope to receive some sort of reply, or a tea bag, before this issue goes to press. My thanks also to Bruce Kimble, BM#175, for the same information on Bruce Bradley. According to Bruce the disc-jockey's exact words were, "Here's the next record, I've got to finish reading my latest copy of BATMAN".)

Many of you will never have a chance to read the special SUPERMAN story that ran many years ago in The Saterday Evening POST magazine since there are no doubt only a few copies remaining anywhere. Recently E. W. Brill, BM#216, was good enough to loan me his copy. It was dated June 21, 1941, only a few years after Superman was created (1939). The title of the article was, UP, UP AND AWA-A-Y! It was very interesting, as well as informative, and I'd like to quote one paragraph from it.

Quote; "In May 1939 he (Harry Donenfeld) tested a quarterly consisting of four thirteen-page Superman stories. It, too, was a sellout. The following July, Superman Magazine bowed in as a bimonthly. It has been zipping along ever since at a lively 1,300,000 while Action Comics, featuring only one Superman story, soared to 900,000. Today Superman leads all other comic magazine characters, one of the few within even hailing distance being the Bat Man--800,000--a bimonthly also owned by Donenfeld. Last year Superman Magazine grossed $950,000."

Part of the reason I reprinted the above paragraph is to point out to all Batmanians that "Bat-Facts" can be found anywhere. To double our enjoyment of reading about Batman I encourage you to "spot" this information for us here at BM headquarters. I am not the only fan who wants to hear about such information, but I collect any and all facts about Batman. Now let us continue with some more comments.

I suppose you saw the mention of "Cartoonist Bob Kane" in Walter Winchell's column last week. If you didn't see it yourself, I suppose someone sent it to you. (No, I didn't. Can anyone supply this particular WW column?) While reading Batmania last night I was trying to think of mentions of Batman on television. The only one I recall came five or six years ago on a Sunday morning television show which was a comedy review by some "bright, new talents." One of the skits attempted to show what an astronaut would do while spending several years alone in a space capsule. At one point, the flight came into the astronaut's charbers and commented something to the effect that, "You won't be bored -- I've got a stack of old Batman comics out there."

For my anthropology course, I was reading a book called "Man, Culture, and Society." It was discussing the artifacts of ancient man in the new world. Some Indian artifacts come from a place in New Mexico called the Bat Cave, believe it or not. Sometime this week, when I return to college, I'll send you a typical mention of the place just to clarify the whole thing.

I've been meaning to mention that I would like to add one thing to the list of items which no true Batmanian considers impossible for Batman --newspaper comic sections, a TV and radio series, or movie serial(should they ever be made again), and Batman puzzles, games and coloring books. I would like to add a Batman paperback novel (and maybe a Superman novel, but that doesn't count in BM, I suppose).

It seems to me that just as Batman is the most easily adapted character for the TV medium, he would be the ideal paperback mystery hero. "The World's Greatest Detective" could surely sleuth his way through a long series of paperbacks, if they were produced with an eye for a teenage and adult audience (which is not an out-of-the question readership, as the Shadow should prove.)

If the series could return to the aura of mystery which once surrounded Batman, it could be a big success. Take a crime at night, add a Batman who, like the winged creature of the night which is his birthright, glides from roof to roof, his eery shadow passing across the ground, and put in paperback form, and you've got a potential big seller. Surely DC, with Gardner Fox and Edmond Hamilton, successful novelists, in their own right, could find a writer for such a book.

Al Russel, a friend of mine, mentioned that several years ago a Batman series was planned to replace a cops-and robbers television series during the summer. Eventually this did not pan out and Al thought he originally read this in TV GUIDE. (Anyone know of such an issue?)

--- Rick Weingroff BM#158

(Ordinarily, I would end out Rick's portion of the B-Speaks column here, but since I've been wanting good comments on Robin's appearance in BRAVE & BOLD, I thought you'd also

like to hear his opinions on this.)

Of all the team-ups in the BRAVE & BOLD series (and I have not yet seen the Doctor Fate-Hourman story which should set a new pace for tne series), the best was, in my opinion, the Robin-Kid Flash-Aqualad story. This had some injection of personality, plenty of action, and surprising good artwork by Brumo Premiani, who really captured the three youths' style. This was the only story in the series which did have some characterization.

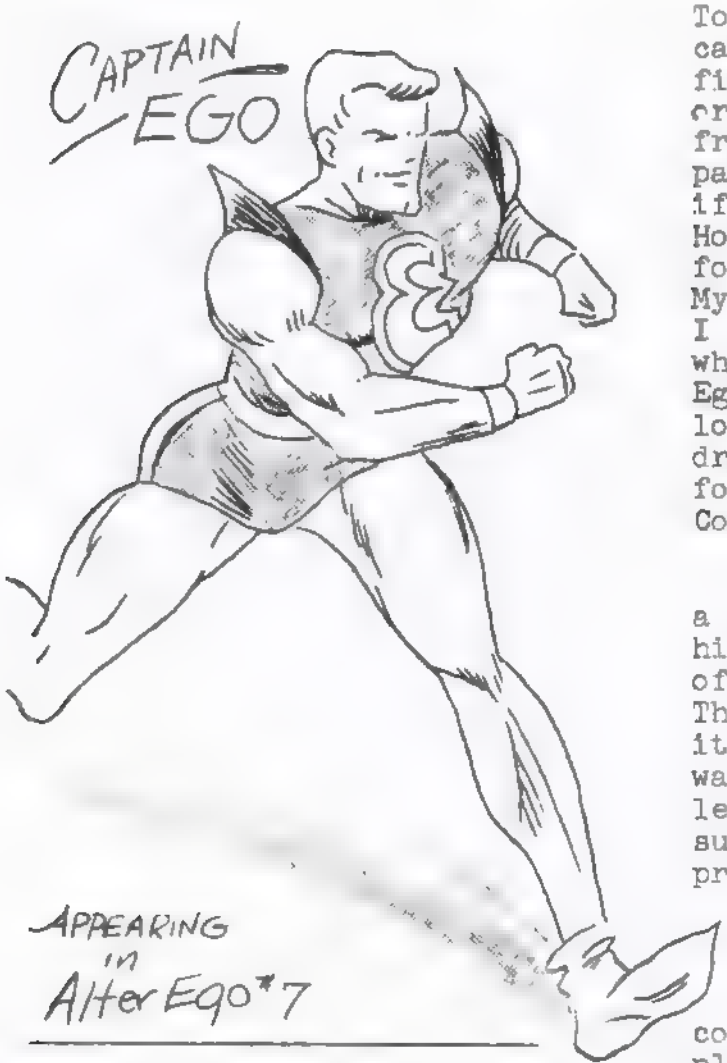
As a matter of fact, the personality was the "start" of the "New Look" Robin. In the story, as I recall, he and Kid Flash and Aqualad were anxious to test their wings, to go out on their own, away from their mentors. They wanted to prove that they are good in their own right. This attitude was the first sign of the humanization of Robin (and the others). Normally, Robin went through his paces, jumping when Batman said jump, throwing in a bit of life-saving when the situation arose. But basically, he was just an impersonation of a teenager, not acting like a real one. Occasionally he went to school, but that was the extent of his teenage life. In the team-up, and subsequent "New Look" stories, he has been presented as a somewhat realistic teenager. We now find him missing an occasional adventure because of school work or school dances. He likes folk music. And like all teenagers, he wants to assert his separate identity, breaking away from parental ties (in this case, breaking away from the overshadowing image of Batman, to emerge as a separate, capable crime fighter).

I rather hope that his slight rebellion against Batman can be continued. He is a teenager, after all, and all teenagers, according to psychiatrists, rebel against authority in an effort, however futile, to assert their independence. Robin, who has lived so long under the protective wing of Batman, must surely be getting a strong desire to leave the nest, to go out on his own. Personality-wise, it is about time Robin began to rebell just a bit, not enough to turn the comic into a soap opera but enough to make him relax.

---Rick Weingroff BM#158

(Rick also added this info on the Bat Cave he mentioned earlier; "Bat Cave in New Mexico gives us our earliest dated form of domesticated maize, starting 2500 B.C. with a primitive form and showing an evolutionary sequence continuing to the top where we have essentially modern corn." P. 150, MAN, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY, "Man in the New World," L.S. Cressman, ed. Harry Shapiro.)

Many of you Batmania readers are also readers of the original super-hero comics fanzine, ALTER EGO, so I'd like to pass on this information. Issue #7 of AE ran a coloring contest in which anyone could send in their drawing of how Capt. Ego's costume would appear if colored. The closest to the true costume color would determine the winner. On the back cover of AE #8 there will be a full length picture of Capt. Ego in color with the winners name. His initials are S. L. and he will receive that original drawing plus a page of original JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA art. AE#8 is probably on sale by the time you read this but I decided to hold back the top winners name just in case it wasn't. The front cover of AE #8 feautres Black hawk in full cover. This will be another collector's item so if you want a copy, send 60¢ to Roy Thomas, 3600 Hallmark Lane, Apt.G, St. Louis, Mo. 63125. Here is a list of the runner-ups in the coloring contest; Peter Turner, Steven Schaffer, Paul Thompson, Joey Trovato, Joe Angiolillo, Jr., Robert Barritt, Donald Ensign, Richard Vincent, Gary Lowenthal, Bill Dubay, Paul Rybaiczyk, Lucas Dang, Doug Potter, Mark Robinett, Bruce Lowry, Ed Lahmann, Jerry Sorek, Steve Sabo, Mike McNeil, Ben Creisler, Alad Jadro,



Tom Hardacre and James Sharp. In case the winners haven't been notified, their prizes of a page of original JLA art may be obtained from Roy (address on preceeding page) by sending him a mailing tube if you want the art mailed rolled. However, Roy will mail it flat, folded once, at no cost to you. My congratulations to the winners. I want to thank all of the others who submitted their ideas on Capt. Egos costume, as Roy and I had a lot of fun judging the contest. All drawings are being retained by me for display at The White House of Comics.

Not many weeks go by without a letter from the "strip master" himself. I refer to Paul Leiffer, of Tonawanda, N.Y. He was one of The STRIPPER's top boosters before it was discontinued. The STRIPPER was a fanzine for comic-strip collectors, and much of the information submitted by Paul would never see print after its demise. But instead of not using this information I've decided to give this "Strip Master" a trial run. If you enjoy reading about the comic strips, as well as comics, please let us know and we'll continue this feature.

THE STRIP MASTER by Paul R. Leiffer

Comic book artists Joe Maneely and Jack Cole had just begun new comic strips ("Mrs. Lyons' Cubs" with Stan Lee, and "Betsy and Me", respectively) before their tragic deaths (June 7,1958 and Aug.13,1958).

Other obituaries: Frank Godwin - "Rusty Riley" - died Aug.5,1959. Dick Calkins - "Buck Rogers" - died May 12,1962. Eric Ericson - "Herkimer Fuddle" - died Aug.4,1959. Phil Davis - "Mandrake" - died Dec.16, 1964. Percy Crosby - "Skippy" - died Dec.8,1964.

Bill Zeigler - "Dragnet" - currently does backgrounds for his neighbor Ken Ernst on "Mary Worth". Mike Roy - "The Saint" - began the Indian-Lore strip "Akwas" last year. Cliff Rogerson - "Francis, the Talking Mule" - does the panel cartoon "Tee Vee Laffs". Herb Gardner - "The Nebbishes" - is a successful Broadway playright with A THOUSAND CLOWNS. Marvin Townsend - "Sam Hill" - does magazine panel gags. Art Gates - "Service Smiles" - and comic book art, now runs his own feature syndicate. Norman Maurer - "The Happy Days", Daredevil comics and 3-D comics with Joe Kubert, is a top man in the Three Stooges enterprises. Jerry Dumas and Bob Gustafson have been working with Mort Walker since their own strips ("Sam's Strip" and "Tillie the Toiler" ended. Carl Rose(Earl Cros) - 1st artist on "Our New Age" - does cartoon illos for READER'S DIGEST and other magazines. John Milt Morris - "Scorchy Smith" - does staff illustrations for AP newsfeatures.

In the last issue of Batmania we presented a list of guest appearances of Batman and/or Robin. Due to the continued fine effort of our researcher, LeRoy S. Blair (BM#251), we are able to now list the following guest stars who have appeared in Batman stories.

Superman:

Batman #101	The Great Bat-Cape Hunt!
Batman #127	The Second Life of Batman
Batman #140	The Charmed Life of Batman!
Detective Comics #292	The Colossus of Gotham City

And he is mentioned by name in

Batman #107	The Grown-Up Boy Wonder
Batman #113	Batman--The Superman of Planet X!

Lex Luthor is the villain in

Batman #130	The Hand from Nowhere

Green Arrow is mentioned by name in

Batman #139	The Blue Bowman
World's Finest Comics #122	The Capture of Superman

The Elongated Man

Detective Comics #331	Museum of Mixed-Up Men!

(Any and all additions to the above list should be sent to Batmania for the benefit of our completist-collectors, of which I am definitely one).

RESULTS OF THE 1st ANNUAL BATMANIA BALLOT ---------

A list of all Batman stories that appeared in Batman and Detective Comics for 1964 was presented to the readers in our last issue. You were asked to select your favorite stories and covers of the year in what we called, The Batmania Ballot for 1964. We also asked for opinions on four other questions. The results are now in and totaled and we are grateful for the help of everyone who participated.

FAVORITE STORY of the YEAR:

"Castle with the Wall-to-Wall Danger"--
Detective Comics #329(July)

Even though the voting was very close, this story was selected over such fine stories as; "Zero Hour for Earth", which placed in an almost virtual tie with "Two-Way Deathtrap". Other stories getting a strong vote count was; "Mystery of the Menacing Mask", "How to Solve a Perfect Crime--in Reverse" and "Gotham Gang Line-up".

As you recall, "Castle with the Wall-to-Wall Danger!" was the adventure which tock place in an ancient castle in England. Batman and Robin were in search of an elusive thief and had to face many hidden perils before capturing their quarry.

FAVORITE COVER of the YEAR:

Batman #166

Whereas the stories were closely packed in the voting, the Batman #166(Two-Way Deathtrap) cover was a definite winner. This fascinating cover featured Batman struggling against rising water in a pit. Above him was a rotating machine-gun which spelled doom when the waters brought Batman to the top. The shades of blue and green presented us

with a beautiful array of color. With the famous Batman uniform submerged in water the usual grey and yellow was never more attractive. This was only one of the several outstanding Infantino covers that all of comic fandom is raving about. One of the treats of todays enjoyment of reading and collecting comics is the suspense of what will appear next on the cover of Batman and Detective Comics. One of the most eye-catching innovations of Schwartz and Crew is the brilliant new Batman logo that now embraces the covers of Batman Comics and all of the stories. As I said, we never know what to expect next, but to any of those who doubted it, the "New Look" has definitely become the "Better Look."

Other covers that ran a good race in the final voting were; Batman #167(Zero Hour for Earth)--in which Batman and Robin are being blinded by two blazing shafts of light beaming down from a stone idol's eyes; Detective Comics #329(Castle with the Wall-to-Wall Danger)--as Robin steps on a hidden spring on some stairsteps, Batman goes tumbling down thru a trap-door. The candle Batman holds throws an eery glow across his cowl; Detective #328(Gotham Gang Line-Up) also ranked high.

Selected as the worst Batman story of the year, or rather the story that fared the poorest in the voting, was--"Captive of the Alien Zoo", which received only one vote. This story appeared in Detective #326, before the new look began. Low vote getters in the running for best cover was a tie between Batman #162(The Batman Creature) and Detective #326(Captives of the Alien Zoo).

Four questions were asked of the Batmanians that could be answered by a yes or no. Many fans gave a detailed reason why they voted as they did, which we appreciate. It was a big help in determining the answer to question number one. "Do you prefer the "new look" Batman over the "old" Batman?" Ninety per cent of those voting prefer the "new look", but several fans pointed out their vote was for the "new look" over the "old", or Schiff editorship period, but not necessarily the pre-Schiff era. Among older fans the Batman of the forties is still the favorite. Question number two; "Do you like the changes made in Batman's costume?" Sixty per cent favored the changes. Some fans made a choice but stated the change wasn't too drastic so it didn't matter either way to them. Question number three; "Do you approve of the new Batmobile?" This was the closest total vote of the four questions as only four per centage points separated the yes and no vote. The verdict? ----the readers of Batmania prefer the old Batmobile over the new one. They admit the older model could not maneuver as well as the new sports-type model, yet it doesn't seem practical to them in face of the valuable equipment the old model used to carry. Some regard the new model as an invitation to disaster---"They're sitting targets for any Gotham gang in that topless car"----"If you would turn that new-job upside down I'm sure you'd find kiddie-car pedals there", etc. The last question concerned Jack Schiffs biggest contribution to fandom, "Want to see more newspaper reprints from the 40's?" Only four voters went against seeing more of the reprints. With this overwhelming vote of "yes", and our plea of last issue (Open Letter to Jack Schiff) we we are expecting to see more reprints of the newspaper strips.

The above results are being forwarded to Editor Julius Schwartz for his able consideration. I feel the vote of each and every fan can have definite bearing on the future of Batman and the progress he can make in his climb back up to his old spot as "Favorite Comic Book Character" Thanks again for making the first annual Batmania Ballot a success.

BOOK WEEK, a supplement of the Sunday Herald Tribune(Jan.24'65) carried a most interesting 3-column article entitled, "Batman got busted in Brooklyn", a nostalgic reminiscence by Pete Hamill. Thanks to David A. Kaler(BM#133) for sending this to me. We'll try to get permission to reprint this as many fans may not have seen it.

I think this will prove that even TV stars have/or are reading Batman comics. On the Feb. 8th showing of TO TELL THE TRUTH(with the old radio-SUPERMAN,Bud Collyer), while questioning a member of the team of challengers, Orson Bean said, (Quote) "When you were a little kid you used to dream about flying like Batman and Robin, or other comic book characters?" I wonder how many Batmanians caught this? asks Merlin Haas (BM#396). And speaking of Mr. Orson Bean, who sure seems to be getting around...Bruce Kimble(BM#175) wrote; "Last night (Dec.22) Batman was mentioned on the Les Crane Show (TV). It was during a discussion on books for children when Orson Bean brought up the fact that he enjoyed reading comics when he was young instead of books for children. The lady sitting across from him (1st name is Martha--didn't catch the last name) stated that old comics like Batman are now being sold for $7.50 a piece."

In ATOM #10, page 10, panel one, a library secretary is showing Atom a list of people who have rented a book about legends. Among the names on the list were CARMINE INFANTINO, MURPHY ANDERSON, SID GREENE and GIL KANE. Spotted by Howard Brenner(BM#116).

SEVERAL FANS HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR MORE "PROFILES ON COLLECTORS"---I have received some from various fans, but I must have a small snapshot too. It will be returned. So send in a lot of facts about yourself for use in this feature.

IS THE BAT-CAVE REALLY SECRET? One would hardly think so after glancing over the following list of persons who have entered the Bat-Cave at one time or another: (Obviously 1.Batman,2.Robin,3.Alfred)4.Superman 5.Jimmy Olson 6.The composite Superman 7.Jeremy Coe(the first to discover the Batcave) 8.John Waller(the television narrater for the show "Man-to-Man" when they interviewed Batman in the Batcave) 9.Birely(a technician for "Man-to-Man" 10.Morrell(same as Birely) 11.Mart Mathers(a crook who posed as a 3rd technician in order to enter the Batcave) 12.Batmite 13. Bat-hound(even tho he is only a dog) 14.Barney Barrows(the mental gaint of Gotham City) 15.Kyles(the crook that Barney Barrows brought to the Batcave to question) 16.Mitch(the crook who had a hideout in a cave near Batman's and could listen in on conversations in the Batcave) 17.Beany (Mitch's accomplice) 18.Commissioner Gordon(when he was "Mystery Man"... and this list doesn't even include Bat Girl, Robin II and Batwoman who Alfred wrote about in his stories. David Johnson(BM#242) admits his collection is far from complete so there are probably many others who have stepped inside the Batcave. Other lists that David plans to compile are; Persons who have ridden in the Batmobile, the Batplane, etc. We are glad to print such lists as they will provide handy references for all Batmanians. All additions to these lists are also solicited.

NEWSWEEK, Feb.15,1965, printed an article that should be of great interest to all Batmanians, for our organization and official club fanzine, BATMANIA received much publicity in it. The article, "Superfans and Batmaniacs" contained this paragraph: "Next to Superman fans, the most enthusiastic collectors are the followers of Batman and Captain Marvel. Batman fans publish a fan magazine called Batmania, which delights in exploring such historical topics as "Batman Before Robin." Batmanians seem to draw particular satisfaction from their hero's humanity; he can neither fly, deflect bullets with his chest, nor see through concrete walls. In short, any escapist could simply close his eyes and imagine himself attired in cape, cowl, boots, and gloves. The Batmanians are also painstaking scholars; one, in fact, made comic-book history by discovering that a panel on page 6 of Detective Comics No. 36 depicted Batman with six fingers on his right hand." We thank you, NEWSWEEK!

(Con't Page 24)

Send your Comic Oddities to Biljo White, Box 115, Columbia, Mo.
Full credit to the source of all oddities.

COMIC ODDITIES

SUPERMAN #1

SUPERMAN #5

SUPERMAN #9

The Superman emblem has undergone many changes through the years as pointed out in these sketches by Marc Grossman(BM#579). This is just one of the many oddities to be found in comics--so, if you spot one, send it in.

Vicki Vale, girl reporter, appeared in BATMAN #50("Lights--Camera--Crime!") as a red head (as she usually was), yet in Batman #55 ("A Greater Detective Than Batman.") she was a blond. Could have been one of those stylish wigs--but I suppose it was just a coloring error. Spotted by LeRoy S. Blair(BM#251).

SUPERMAN (today)

It takes a true student of art to spot such oddities as the following:
"I've noticed that a few of MARVEL's present publications have some 'oddities' every so often, in their covers. Their ads which present reproductions of covers for issues 'now on sale', that the covers in the ads differ than the actual covers on the mags purchased on the newsstands, in one way or another. For instance, lay the cover of AVENGERS #4 before you. Next, open a copy of X-MEN #4 to the page advertising AVENGERS #4. Notice the difference in the wing on the right side of Capt. Americas head. The cover advertisement says "the real Capt. America lives again", enclosed in a jagged balloon. The actual cover says only "Capt. America lives again", and minus the jagged balloon. The advertisement also shows the word 'Sensational' in the Sub Mariner overlay as being enclosed by lines at the top and bottom of the word running across the arrow. The actual cover is without these lines." Sent in by Dick Memorich(BM#587).

BATMAN ONCE APPEARED WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER! For all of you collectors who aren't just satisfied with collecting comics featuring Batman, you'll want to latch onto a copy of PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S CARTOON BOOK printed in 1956 by Frederick Fell, Inc. of New York.

(con't Page 23)

monster fans!

NOW, SEE THE MOST UNUSUAL...
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"YOU...GOT A TICKET FOR DRAG RACING?"

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THE COPYRIGHTED PROPERTY OF NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS INCORPORATED.

There are two editions, the other being a soft-bound POCKET BOOKS, INC. (large size) edition that originally sold for $1.00. It features 95 specially drawn cartoons by 95 of America's most distinguished cartoonists. Included among the artists are; Carmine Infantino, Alex Raymond, Bob Lubbers, Wayne Boring, Frank Frazetta, Charles Biro and Bob Kane. Bob's drawing shows Batman and Robin having breakfast with the President. Robin is saying, "Gee Batman, Who ever thought we'd be having breakfast with the President of the United States?". With a smile Eisenhower extends an arm around Batman's shoulder. Batman answers, "Robin--this is the biggest thrill of our careers!"I want to thank President Eisenhower, on behalf of Bob Kane and ourselves for this great privilege. Thank you--Mr. President!"

BATMAN--SALESMAN! "As Batman and Robin race with death to deliver a rare serum to Gotham City Hospital...Robin exclaims, 'It's snowing too hard to push on much farther, Batman! Another minute and we won't be able to see the road! How can we ever get this rare serum to the hospital on time?' 'Don't worry, Robin!' answers Batman, confidently, 'We'll get there in plenty of time! Since I equipped the Batmobile with Gillette Snow Tires, not even the fiercest snowstorm can slow us down!"....and so Batman and Robin become salesmen, extraordinary, for Gillette Tires. This attractive ad is now appearing in large newspaper ads (probably elsewhere, also) and was sent to me by Paul R. Leiffer, BM#179. If you spot such ads in your local paper, send a copy to Biljo. Thanks.

WHEN COLLECTORS GET TOGETHER....Recently Richard Kyle(BM#213) was visiting Rick Durell(BM#122) and while looking over Ricks Batman and Detective Comics collection, they spotted this..."Have you ever noticed that the last story in Batman #1 look's as if it belongs to Detective #40? The splash panel of this 'Joker' story is on the same idea as the cover picture on Detective #40. And is not that the Joker on the cover, only with regular skin color? Both comics came out at the same time, in fact they both advertise each other. Makes one wonder doesn't it? If maybe the 1st Clayface story was supposed to be the last story in Batman #1, and the Joker story, in Detective #40 to go with the cover."

RUSTY AND HIS PALS was another of the pre-Batman comic features by Bob Kane. This famous old kid-strip ran in Adventure comics #28 thru #52. It reminded me very much of early Terry and the Pirates. Next issue; a drawing of Bob Kane's CLIP CARSON.

HOW A BIG-TIME COMIC IS BORN--The true story of Batman and Robin. This story can be found in REAL FACT Comics #5(Nov.Dec.1946). This is a must for the complete Batman collector.

MAD Magazine #85(Mar.'64) carries an article "Mannie Get Your Ghoul" in which the bottom row of pictures on the splash panel has a picture of Batman. Also on page 6, middle row, Mannie is shown with a picture of Batman. Sent in by R. Tintera(BM#267). Other Batman appearances; BIG DADDY ROTH #1 has a satire--BDR meets BatTman and Ribbon the Wonder. "Batboy and Rubin" which ran originally in MAD Comics can be obtained in INSIDE MAD, a pocketbook edition. Several fans spotted the Batman cartoon in PLAYBOY(Feb.'65) in which a figure who is supposed to be Batman has painted these words on a wall--"Superman is a fink." Blaine Board(BM#407) informs me Flip Comics #2(June'54) has a comical Batman shown on page 3, panel 4, and page 4, panel 6. Can anyone supply me with this comic?(Biljo)

More COMIC ODDITIES next issue

From the Feb. 7,1965 edition of the New York Times Magazine you will find a photo of a "pop" ballet--the San Francisco ballet company's production of "Life--A Do-It-Yourself Disaster," with a score by Charles Ives. In this picture is a lone ballerina on a stage with three huge thirty-foot panels taken from an old Batman comic. The word P-O-W is spelled out in the three panels. Panel 1 features side profiles of BM and Robin. The "O" in panel two is shaped in a colorful target, while panel 3 shows a gaint hand picking up an automatic weapon. This appears in the article, "Thar's Culture In Them Thar Hills." --Steve Schaffer

BRAVE & BOLD #59, the special Batman-Green Lantern, will be illustrated by Romona Frandom(pencils) and Charles Paris(inks). --TCR

"SHAZAM and all that" is the title of an article appearing in the Jan. 16, issue of Ave Maria National Catholic Weekly. The article discusses Superman, Batman, Capt. Marvel, the Phantom, Daredevil and the Claw, Black Hood, Sub-Mariner, etc. Cost is 25¢ from Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana. ---The Comic Reader. Other Batman news from TCR: LOIS LANE, July issue, finds the gal reporter finding "proof" that Bruce Wayne is Superman. BRAVE & BOLD will feature TEEN TITANS-Robin, Kid Flash-Aqualad and hold your hat---Wonder Girl!?! Don't ask how they'll do it, but she is featured on the cover.

LATE AD----WANTED: Back issues of Batman and Detective Comics. Need most issues as I am a new collector. Want comics in fairly good to fine condition. Send lists and prices to: JACK PROMO, 4664 TOLEDO AVE., DETROIT, MICH. 48209

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